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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2882**

00862.021917

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Eigo KAWAKAMI et al.

Application No.: 09/577,608

Filed: May 25, 2000

For: POSITIONING APPARATUS, ATMOSPHERE
SUBSTITUTING METHOD, EXPOSURE
APPARATUS, AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING
METHOD

) : Examiner: C. E. Church
):
): Group Art Unit: 2882
): Confirmation No.: 6496
):
): January 28, 2005
):
):

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Request for Reconsideration in the above-identified application.

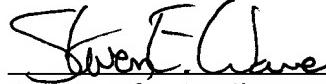
No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	26	MINUS	31	= 0	x \$25 \$50	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	7	MINUS	7	= 0	x \$100 \$200	\$0.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$180/\$360						\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$0.00

- °Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.
- A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed including the additional claims fees.
- Charge \$____ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.
- Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 CFR 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$____ to cover the fee for a ____ month extension is enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$____ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.
- Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action issued October 28, 2004, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-20, 22, 24, 25 and 27-31 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 9, 12, 14, 16, 24 and 30 are independent.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action.